

**Introduced by Senator Wyland**February 24, 2009

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An act to amend Section 60642.5 of the Education Code, relating to pupil assessment.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 253, as introduced, Wyland. Pupil assessment: STAR testing.

The Leroy Greene California Assessment of Academic Achievement Act requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to design and implement a statewide pupil assessment program, known as the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program.

This bill would require that any reading selection that is used as part of the assessment instruments administered under the STAR Program relate to American history.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 60642.5 of the Education Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 60642.5. (a) (1) The Superintendent, with approval of the
- 4 state board, shall provide for the development of an assessment
- 5 instrument, to be called the California Standards Tests, that
- 6 measures the degree to which pupils are achieving the academically
- 7 rigorous content standards and performance standards, to the extent
- 8 standards have been adopted by the state board. ~~These~~
- 9 (b) ~~These~~ standards-based achievement tests shall contain the
- 10 subject areas specified in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of

1 Section 60603 for grades 2 to 8, inclusive, and shall include an  
2 assessment in history/social science in at least one elementary or  
3 middle school grade level selected by the state board and science  
4 in at least one elementary or middle school grade level selected  
5 by the state board, and the core curriculum areas specified in  
6 paragraph (5) of subdivision (a) of Section 60603 for grades 9 to  
7 11, inclusive, except that history-social science shall not be  
8 included in the grade 9 assessment unless the state board adopts  
9 academic content standards for a grade 9 history-social science  
10 course, and shall include, at a minimum, a direct writing assessment  
11 once in elementary school and once in middle or junior high school  
12 and other items of applied academic skill if deemed valid and  
13 reliable and if resources are made available for their use.

14 *(3) Any reading selections that are used as part of an*  
15 *administration of the assessment instruments under this section*  
16 *shall relate to American history.*

17 (b) In approving a contract for the development or administration  
18 of the California Standards Tests, the state board shall consider  
19 each of the following criteria:

20 (1) The ability of the contractor to produce valid, reliable  
21 individual pupil scores.

22 (2) The ability of the contractor to report results pursuant to  
23 subdivision (a) of Section 60643 by August 8.

24 (3) The ability of the contractor to ensure alignment between  
25 the standards-based achievement test and the academically rigorous  
26 content and performance standards as those standards are adopted  
27 by the state board. This criterion shall include the ability of the  
28 contractor to implement a process to establish and maintain  
29 alignment between the test items and the standards.

30 (4) The per pupil cost estimates of developing and, if  
31 appropriate, administering the proposed assessment with a system  
32 to facilitate the determination of future per pupil cost  
33 determinations.

34 (5) The procedures of the contractor to ensure the security and  
35 integrity of test questions and materials.

36 (6) The experience of the contractor in successfully conducting  
37 testing programs adopted and administered by other states. For  
38 experience to be considered, the number of grades and pupils tested  
39 shall be provided.

- 1 (c) The standards-based achievement tests may use items from
- 2 other tests.

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